



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

## **UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN FORT LAUDERDALE**

**December 25, 5:00 p.m.**

Following is an update on sewer main repair activities on a 54-inch line on SE 10 Street along the north side of Virginia Young Park in Rio Vista and a 48-inch line in the Himmarshee Canal in Beverly Heights. In addition, below are updates on ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts in the Hector Park area along Ponce de Leon Drive in Rio Vista.

### **Operations at Virginia Young Park**

- The bypass line activated at approximately 12:56 a.m. this morning continues to function properly with all sewage flow fully contained within the system.
- Staff will continue to monitor pressure and flow in the bypass line and perform system checks throughout the evening and overnight hours.
- Streets in the vicinity of Virginia Young Park remain largely clear and dry.
- Crews from Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI) focused on remediation activities today that included cleaning and pressure washing streets, sidewalks, and driveways in the affected area.
- Virginia Young Park remains closed while repair activities are taking place.
- Neighbors are reminded that the area in and around Virginia Young Park is an active construction zone.
- For the safety of everyone, access to the construction zone is limited to appropriate operational and management personnel.

### **Cleanup and Remediation of Ponce de Leon Drive/Hector Park Area**

- A second crew from CBI conducted cleanup, pressure washing, and deodorizing activities on Ponce de Leon Drive and in the vicinity around Hector Park.
- Hector Park remains closed to the public.
- Equipment and materials will continue to be removed from areas in and around Hector Park as part of the cleanup and demobilization effort.

### **Operations in the Himmarshee Canal**

- The leak in a submerged 48-inch sewer main in the Himmarshee Canal in the vicinity of SE 2 Street and SE 9 Avenue has been significantly reduced.
- Divers are assessing whether a custom valve device can be installed on the pipe to fully seal the leak.
- The leak is not impacting properties on land.
- Three aerators are operating at points along the Himmarshee Canal to help improve water quality.
- Neighbors are reminded that the Himmarshee Canal from S. Federal Highway to the New River remains under a precautionary advisory for recreational water-related activities. Swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within the precautionary advisory area should be avoided.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

## **Environmental Activities**

- Results from air quality tests taken by GHD Environmental in the affected area around Virginia Young Park and Hector Park did not detect the presence of any hazardous gases in the air related to the sewage spill.
- 14 aerators continued to operate 24/7 to help improve water quality in the Tarpon River, New River, and Himmarshee Canal.
- Boats continued to patrol the canal system in and around Rio Vista and in the Himmarshee Canal conducting skimming and debris removal on the waterways.

## **Road Closures**

- Roads in the immediate vicinity of Virginia Young Park are closed including a portion of SE 10 Street east of SE 9 Avenue, as well as a portion of South Rio Vista Boulevard east of SE 9 Avenue.
- SE 9 Avenue is closed from south of the intersection at SE 8 Street to Ponce de Leon Drive.
- There is no access east of SE 9 Avenue at the intersections of SE 9 Street, SE 10 Street, South Rio Vista Boulevard, and the north side of Ponce de Leon Drive.
- Local access for residents of the area will be maintained where needed during the duration of the closure.
- To view a map of the road closures, please visit <http://bit.ly/34W91Q6>.

## **Safety Tips**

- Neighbors in the affected area are reminded to avoid contact with any standing water.
- If contact is made, please remember to follow proper hygiene procedures. Wash your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after contact with wastewater, especially before preparing or eating food.
- Be sure to keep all children and pets away from any area affected by the wastewater spill.
- Keep a container or spray bottle outside residential entryways with a 90/10 solution (90% water to 10% household bleach) to clean shoes and other items that may have come into contact with wastewater.
- To view a safety tips flyer, please visit <http://bit.ly/2sUvr73>.

## **Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities**

- A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.
- The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Water-related activities including swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, and canoeing should be avoided within these boundaries.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

## **For More Information**

Neighbors are encouraged to stay up to date by visiting the City's website at [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov) or following the City on social media at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>

Nextdoor - <https://www.nextdoor.com>

Neighbors may also call the City's 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.